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Customer Number

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Case No.: 58012US005

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

First Named Inventor: DIETRICH, STEFAN O.
Application No.: 10/595,835 Confirmation No.: 7491
Filed: November 19, 2004
Title: STRUCTURED PAPER RELEASE LINER, ADHESIVE-BACKED ARTICLE
ASSEMBLY AND METHOD OF MAKING SAME

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING OR TRANSMISSION [37 CFR § 1.8(a)]

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being:

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July 8, 2009 /Joyce M. Courtney/
Date Signed by: Joyce M. Courtney

Dear Sir:

This is in response to the Office Action dated June 18, 2009. Claims 33-52 are pending. Claims 33-52 were restricted under 35 USC § 121 as follows:

- I. Claims 33-38 are said to be drawn to a structured paper release liner;
- II. Claims 39-42 are said to be drawn to an adhesive-backed article assembly;
- III. Claims 43-49 are said to be drawn to a method of making an assembly;
- IV. Claims 50-52 are said to be drawn to a method of making a structured paper release liner.

Election

In response, Applicants elect Group I (i.e., claims 33-38), with traverse. Reconsideration and withdrawal or modification of the restriction requirement is respectfully requested.

It is alleged in the Office Action that the inventions listed in Group I do not relate to a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1 because, under PCT Rule 13.2, they lack the same or corresponding special technical features for the following reasons: Claim 33 is either obvious over or anticipated by WO 00/69985.

Applicants submit claim 33 is patentable over WO 00/69985. Claim 33 is directed to a structured paper release liner for use with an article backed with a pressure sensitive adhesive, said liner comprising:

a piece of paper comprising fibers and having a release side free of a structural support layer, a back side, and a structured release surface having a pattern formed into, so as to deform the fibers of, said paper on said release side; and

a release material bonded to said structured release surface of said paper,

wherein said release material does not form a structural support layer,

wherein a structural support layer is a continuous plastic layer that is capable of having a structured pattern plastically formed therein, where the pattern is either completely contained within the layer of plastic or the plastic layer is thin enough that the pattern is at least partially formed in the paper core as well as the layer of plastic, and the layer of plastic could be separated from, or produced separately from, the paper core in one piece, and

wherein the pattern formed in said paper is dimensioned so as to form fluid egress channels in a bonding surface of the pressure sensitive adhesive, when the pressure sensitive adhesive is applied to said structured release surface or said structured release surface is forced into the bonding surface of the pressure sensitive adhesive, such that the fluid egress channels define a structured bonding surface having exit pathways for at least some of the fluid to bleed out from behind the article when the article is adhered to a substrate. That is, for example, WO 00/69985 does not teach or suggest the underlined feature, nor does the restriction requirement articulate a rationale reason (including with the underlying supporting evidence) how the art properly suggests, for example, the underlined feature.